



# Electoral College

## Washington State & the Electoral College

**The Electoral College was established by the Founding Fathers as a compromise between election of the President by Congress and election by popular vote.**

When you vote for President, you're also choosing a slate of electors to represent Washington State in the Electoral College.

Typically, electors are citizens nominated in recognition of service and dedication to their political party. The U.S. Constitution stipulates that an elector cannot be a "person holding an office of trust under the United States."

Washington State is one of 48 states that use a "winner-take-all" system; the candidate who wins the most popular votes in the state will get all of Washington's electoral votes.

Washington State has 11 electoral votes. Electoral votes are allocated based on the 2000 Census.



**A candidate must win 270 of the 538 total electoral votes to become President. If no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, the U.S. House of Representatives elects the President and the U.S. Senate elects the Vice President.**

The Magic Number =  
**270**

The Electoral College is administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). You can learn more at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).